

1           **Amendment to the Specification**

2           **In the Specification:**

3           Please amend the specification as follows:

4           On Page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 29 should be replaced with the following.

5  
6           Yet another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method for enabling visual  
7           evaluation of atherosclerotic plaque at a site in a patient. This method is similar to the method noted  
8           above, but in addition, repeats all of the steps for each of a plurality of transverse slices at the site  
9           being imaged. The plurality of transverse slices is within planes that are generally transverse relative  
10          to the plurality of slices initially imaged to provide a reference when acquiring the signals for  
11          imaging the transverse slices. In addition, the method includes the step of displaying selected  
12          transverse slices of the site, so that any atherosclerotic plaque formation in an artery of the patient at  
13          the site is clearly visible. A contribution due to flowing blood in each transverse slice is thus  
14          suppressed to more clearly visually display any atherosclerotic plaque formation in an artery at the  
15          site.

16  
17           Please amend the specification as follows:

18           On Page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 5 should be replaced with the following.

19  
20           Still another aspect of the invention pertains to a method for fast black-blood angiography,  
21           wherein the steps described above are used to acquire a plurality of images corresponding to a  
22           plurality of slices that are disposed in an oblique plane along the longitudinal direction of a blood  
23           vessel. Such images depict fragments of blood vessels as being consistently dark compared to  
24           surrounding tissues and any pathologic lesions inside the vessels such as the atherosclerotic plaque or  
25           the thrombus. A plurality of oblique black-blood images is then processed by multi-planar  
26           reformation or minimal intensity projection in order to enable the vascular anatomy to be clearly  
27           visible.